

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1        1.     A telecommunications system, comprising:
  - 2           a central control center maintaining a central database of users and a
  - 3 database of preactivation information; and
  - 4           a plurality of local switches adapted to detect a power-on of a cellular
  - 5 telephone, activate said cellular telephone at a local switch and forward activation
  - 6 information to said central database.
  
- 1        2.     A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said
  - 2 central control center is adapted to receive said preactivation information from a
  - 3 point of sale.
  
- 1        3.     A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said
  - 2 central control center is adapted to propagate said preactivation information to said
  - 3 plurality of local switches.
  
- 1        4.     A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said
  - 2 activation information comprises a valid password entry.
  
- 1        5.     A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said
  - 2 preactivation information is propagated from an activating local switch to other
  - 3 switches.
  
- 1        6.     A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said
  - 2 preactivation information is transmitted from an activating local switch to said central
  - 3 control center and propagated from said central control center to other switches.
  
- 1        7.     A telecommunications method, comprising:
  - 2           providing a central control center maintaining a central database of users and
  - 3 a database of preactivation information; and
  - 4           providing a plurality of local switches adapted to detect a power-on of a

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5 cellular telephone, activate said cellular telephone at a local switch and forward  
6 activation information to said central database.

1 8. A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein said central control  
2 center is adapted to receive said preactivation information from a point of sale.

1 9. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said central control  
2 center is adapted to propagate said preactivation information to said plurality of local  
3 switches.

1 10. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said activation  
2 information comprises a valid password entry.

1 11. A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein said preactivation  
2 information is propagated from an activating local switch to other switches.

1 12. A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein said preactivation  
2 information is transmitted from an activating local switch to said central control center  
3 and propagated from said central control center to other switches.

1 13. A telecommunications switch in a telecommunications network,  
2 comprising:

3 a database storing preactivation information; and

4 a password collection unit adapted to receive a password of a detected  
5 cellular telephone;

6 wherein said preactivation information is propagated to said  
7 telecommunications switch from a point of sale of said cellular telephone and,  
8 responsive to a verification of said password, an activation of said cellular telephone  
9 at said telecommunications switch occurs, said database is updated with activation  
10 information and said activation information is forwarded to other telecommunication  
11 switches in the network.

1           14. A telecommunications switch in accordance with claim 13, wherein said  
2 preactivation information is propagated to said telecommunications switch from a  
3 central control center.

1           15. A telecommunications switch in accordance with claim 14, wherein said  
2 activation information is propagated to said central control center responsive to said  
3 verification.

1           16. A telecommunications switch in accordance with claim 14, wherein said  
2 activation information is transmitted to said central control center responsive to said  
3 verification and said central control center propagates aid activation information to  
4 other telecommunications switches in said network.

1           17. A telecommunications method, comprising:  
2 associating a password with a cellular telephone;  
3 providing said password and preactivation information to a central control  
4 center;  
5 propagating said password and preactivation information to one or more local  
6 switches;  
7 detecting a power on of said cellular telephone at one of said local switches;  
8 verifying said password at said one of said local switches;  
9 activating said cellular telephone at said local switch responsive to said  
10 verifying; and  
11 providing activation information responsive to said activating from said local  
12 switch to said central control center and other local switches.

1           18. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 17, wherein  
2 said associating a password comprises associating said password at a point of sale  
3 of said cellular telephone.

1           19. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 17, wherein  
2 said providing activation information comprises transmitting said activation

- 3 information from said local switch to said central control center.
- 1           20. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 17, wherein  
2 said providing activation information comprises propagating said activation  
3 information from said local switch to said other switches.